

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 732
By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Deloris J. Francis of
Morristown.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Deloris J. Francis; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Francis was an exemplary community servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, known affectionately as "Dee" by her friends, Ms. Francis founded the New Hope Recovery Center five years ago, an endeavor that has vastly improved countless lives; and

WHEREAS, the Center, the only facility of its kind between Knoxville and Johnson City, is an intensive outpatient facility offering treatment for alcohol and chemical dependency, using a holistic treatment approach, allowing impressive long-term recovery results; and

WHEREAS, the Center has been called "The Miracle on Main Street", and Ms. Francis was the chief miracle worker; recollections of her are uniquely and invariably warm; and

WHEREAS, Mitch Robinson, President of the New Hope Recovery Center Board of Directors, said, "It's a tremendous loss, not just to New Hope, but to the entire community. She was so full of life and commitment."; and

WHEREAS, New Hope Clinical Coordinator Joyce Jones recalled that Ms. Francis made the Center a place where "unconditional love was practiced", and the Reverend Dr. George Rawn, Vice President of the New Hope Board of Directors stated, "She was always the bright spot,"; and

WHEREAS, thinking of Ms. Francis's good works, Board Member Mike Fishman said, "She would always work tirelessly to see that those individuals with a need received help."; and

WHEREAS, the wonderful characteristics possessed by Ms. Francis may have been best conveyed by New Hope Board Member Preston Thompson, who said, "She was the first person I knew who completely put others before herself. She was always compassionate and the nicest person I've ever known."; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Francis earned the utmost respect of her community for her professional and charitable endeavors; she was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her father, George Spoon, her grandparents, and several aunts and uncles, and she will be dearly missed by her daughters, Michelle Griggs, Linda Marshall, and Labrini Francis; son, Michael Francis; mother, Mary Bell; brother, Mitchell Spoone; sister, Mary Frances Saylor; grandchildren, Karla and Rebecca Griggs, Megan Kiernan, Matthew, Trevor, and Ericka Marshall, Dillon and Allison McCown, and Cody Hinchey; and fiancé, retired Colonel Chet Smith; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Francis leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Deloris J. Francis, founder of New Hope Recovery Center, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character, her many contributions to her community and this State, and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Francis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.